

Fit to be Used

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

A. Text: II Timothy 2:20-22.

B. There is no thrill like being used by God.

C. Anyone can be an instrument of God.

D. Every person in the world is a possible vessel for God to use—God uses even His enemies to accomplish His work.

II. The question is what kind of purpose God is going to use you for—good or bad.

A. If some are used for evil purposes, why can God find fault? (Romans 9)

1. A choice is always involved when human beings are involved.

2. We have no choice whether we will be used of God or not, but how we will be used of God.

B. Man must purify himself if he is to be used by God for a noble purpose.

1. God does not force us to be used by Him, but He uses whatever choice we make.

2. The choice is up to us.

C. We have a responsibility to use the redemption that has been provided in Jesus Christ.

1. You must say “no” to the wrong before you can say “yes” to the right.

2. This may mean cutting oneself off from that which is ignoble without completely cutting oneself off from the world.

3. If the man purifies himself, he will be a vessel unto honor.

a. He becomes profitable.

b. He becomes effective.

c. He becomes adaptable.

III. We have refused what is wrong—flee youthful passions.

A. It means to flee inappropriate sexual desires.

B. However, more than bodily appetites, the temptations of a young pastor are probably in view—pride, contentiousness, etc.

C. Paul is warning about being too dogmatic or assertive.

IV. We have to say yes to what is right.

A. Seek those things that waken faith.

B. Deliberately choose love—seek reconciliation.

C. Seek peace along with those who do so.

V. All we have to do is be usable.

Application questions:

1. Why is the central issue to being used not whether one is used by God or not? Explain.

2. What is our responsibility in being used appropriately?

3. How can you become more usable by God for a noble purpose? What can you do this week?
